GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1517
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2016
Improved Varieties of Seeds
Mahto Dr. Banshilal;Parthipan Shri R.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are dependent only on the multinational companies for high quality and certified seeds due to failure of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to develop and provide high quality and certified seeds;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the details of the types of high quality and certified seeds developed by various agricultural research centres of the country during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government has any mechanism to deliver the newly developed seeds to farmers at subsidized prices, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to develop the new types of high yielding varieties of seeds to increase the agricultural production?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA)

(a) & (b): No, Madam. Indian farmers are not dependent on multinational seed companies. However, only Bt cotton seed is supplied by multinational companies.

(c) The National Agricultural Research System (NARS) comprising Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) developed 261 varieties of field crops and provided 2.3 lakh quintal breeder seeds during last three years (2012-13 to 2014-15). The NARS in association with Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DoAC&FW) made available 347.31, 351.77 and 343.52 lakh quintals of certified/quality seeds during 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16, respectively, to the farmers.

(d) The ICAR is producing breeder seed of newly developed varieties to different stake holders, both public and private sector to produce foundation, certified and truthfully labeled seeds. Further, DoAC&FW, provides financial assistance for seed production and distribution through various central sector schemes.

(e) The Government of India has a strong system in place for developing new high yielding varieties of seeds. ICAR institutes and SAUs are actively involved to develop new varieties of different crops on regular basis.

****